26th December 1956]

PRIVATE NOTICE QUESTION

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Sri Venkatesha Sholagar will put the Private Notice Question.

SRI P. VENKATESHA SHOLAGAR : கனம் உதவி சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த அமோனியம் . . .

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the hon. Member read out the question.

SRI P. VENKATESHA SHOLAGAR : இங்கிலீஷில் இருக்கிறது. அதை நான் எப்படிப் படிக்கிறது ?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will read out the question—

* 5 *P.N.Q.*—Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to make a statement regarding the inadequate and irregular supply of ammonium sulphate to the agriculturists which is causing hardship and affecting cultivation in Tanjore district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the attention of the Government has been invited to the inadequate and irregular supply of ammonium sulphate to the agriculturists which is causing hardship and affecting cultivation in the Tanjore district. There was sufficient stock of ammonium sulphate in the Tanjore district at the beginning of this year and the arrivals of stocks of ammonium sulphate were commensurate with the demand till August 1956 and since then till November the arrivals were only in limited quantities and the stock by the end of November became low owing to the increased demand for the fertilizer during the manuring season. The monsoon was favourable this year and the demand for the fertilizer was great and the need for increased supply of the fertilizer was felt in Tanjore and other districts. The fertilizer required for consumption in the State is supplied largely from the stocks imported from abroad. Out of 103,000 tons of ammonium sulphate allocated to this State by the Government of India for the calendar year 1956, a quantity of 70,000 tons is to be supplied from import, 28,000 tons from Sindri and 5,000 tons from F.A.C.T., Limited, Alwaye. The supply position of the fertilizer, therefore, depends to a great extent on the regular arrival of steamers from abroad. But owing to the Middle East crisis and the blockage of the Suez Canal, the arrival of the steamers at the Madras Harbour carrying about 22,000 tons has been delayed. In view of the non-arrival of steamers, a quantity of about 2,000 tons for Tanjore district against outstanding despatch instructions could not be supplied. The paucity of stocks was felt in that district as well as in other districts. The stock and supply position was taken note of by this Government. The Government of India were apprised of it telephonically and a special allotment of 5,000 tons of ammonium sulphate from Sindri was obtained. Out of this, a quantity of 750 tons has been allotted to Tanjore district. But there have been difficulties in arranging

movement and the Sindri Factory have informed this Government that they are awaiting wagon supply and the stocks will be despatched as soon as wagons become available.

In the meantime, a steamer carrying 4,000 tons has been received at Cochin Harbour on 19th December 1956. A quantity of 2,000 tons out of this shipment has been allotted to Tanjore district and it may be expected that this quantity will be available at the various centres in Tanjore district shortly. The quantity of 750 tons from Sindri will also start arriving at the destinations by the end of December 1956 and it is hoped that the situation will improve in the district soon. Every effort has been made and is being made to expedite supplies to Tanjore district as well as to other districts which urgently need stocks. The Government are already aware of the need for ensuring a steady supply of ammonium sulphate to the agriculturists of this State in the manuring season and they are watching the stock and supply position in Tanjore and other districts and are taking prompt action to replenish stocks to the extent possible.

10 a.m. SRI S. RAMALINGAM : சமீபத்தில் இந்த உரம் வினியோகிப்புத் திட்டத்தை ரெவன்யூ இலாகாவிற்கு மாற்றியதால் ஏற்கனவே கூட்டுப் பட்டாக்களாக இருந்து சென்ற ஆண்டில் உரம் வாங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்த பல விவசாயிகள், கூட்டுப் பட்டா என்ற ஒரே காரணத்திற்காக ரெவன்யூ இலாகாவால் மறுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு, சென்ற வருஷத்தில் ஒழுங்காக வாங்கியதை திருப்பிக் கொடுத்த இவர்களுக்கும் உரம் விநியோகிக்க உத்தரவு இடுவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : உரம் விநியோகிப்ப தொன்றும் ரெவன்யூ இலாகாவிற்கு கொடுக்கவில்லை. கடன் கொடுப்பதுதான் ரெவன்யூ இலாகாவிற்கு இருக்கிறது. இதையெல்லாம் கவனித்து தாமதத்திற்கு கொஞ்சம்கூட இடமில்லாமல் செய்யவேண்டு மென்றுதான் ரெவன்யூ இலாகாவிடம் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Questions are over . . .

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Sir, my point has not been answered.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already allowed this question as a short notice question. Questions are therefore over and I shall take up the next item on the agenda.

Hon. Member Sri G. Govindan will under rule 40 call attention of the Minister for Public Works to a matter of urgent public importance.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Sir, I had given notice of a privilege motion. The rule is that we should take up privilege motions immediately before the business of the House is taken up, i.e., immediately after question time is over. May I know when the privilege motion will be taken up?

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have just now received it and I have not gone through that. I will take it up to-morrow after question time is over.